

Mr. Speaker, we are so close to that finish line, and so I ask all my colleagues to join me in heeding the pleas of Bob and Richard and Karli. Let's do the right thing. Let's pass a bill so we can help those who need it the most.

RECOGNIZING PAMELA DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my chief of staff, Pamela Day. Next month, after 25 years of service—17 of them in my office—Pam will begin her well-earned retirement.

Pam first arrived on Capitol Hill as a college student and served in my office with my friend, the late Representative Ben Gilman of New York. She first started in my office as a legislative assistant, and her policy knowledge and genuine desire to serve my constituents quickly became apparent.

Because of her hard work, determination, and positive attitude, Pam was promoted to legislative director, deputy chief of staff, and, eventually, she became my chief of staff. Her leadership in my office has been invaluable.

It is no secret, as dean of the House, I have been here for a long time. As a Member of this institution for nearly 20 years, Pam stuck with me through thick and thin, and I will always be grateful for her faithful service.

She is well respected by everyone, from alumni of my staff and her colleagues on Capitol Hill, to leaders in the State of Alaska and advocates far and wide. You simply do not achieve this level of respect unless you set the gold standard for what a congressional staffer should be. Pam has gone above and beyond at every turn.

Mr. Speaker, a chief of staff doesn't just assist the Member; they have an entire team of employees who, at any given time, are working on countless issues. My staff would agree, Pam is admired, respected, and will be deeply missed.

Pam's tenure has seen many of the victories I am proud of. She served in my office while I served as chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and passed our landmark highway bill, SAFETEA-LU. She also helped pass reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act. And her commitment to constituents has helped secure millions of dollars for organizations that serve Alaskans and Americans from all walks of life.

Aside from legislative victories, Pam understood the importance of the relationships in Congress. She made sure that my office was always in good spirits. And as many will attest, she ensured that our annual office Christmas parties were the best on the Hill.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of Pam, and I am saddened to see her go. She served me, our State, and our Nation with professionalism, commitment,

and a sincere love of country. She has always been committed to the next generation of congressional staff and has been a respected mentor to many of the staffers, both in my office and around Capitol Hill. Her leadership in my office was invaluable, and she will be missed by her colleagues as well as myself.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my great honor to call her my chief of staff and an even greater honor to call her my friend.

Pam, I wish you the best in your retirement. You have certainly earned it. God bless you, Pam, and thank you for your service.

FAREWELL REMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on what has been the greatest honor of my life: the opportunity to represent my home State and Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District here in the people's House.

This is not an honor that I take lightly, nor is it a responsibility that I could have carried alone.

First and foremost, I begin by saying thank you.

Thank you to my family, to my parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, my friends, and all of those who have supported me throughout my life, who taught me the lessons about caring for our community, lessons about hard work and determination, about living the Golden Rule—the Oklahoma standard.

Thank you to all my teachers and guiding voices who showed me, through words and actions, the value of service, the importance of showing up for each other and standing up for what is right.

Thank you to Oklahomans who have shown up to make their voices heard. It is because of you we were able to accomplish everything we did. It is because of you that we were able to do what others said could not be done.

Mr. Speaker, I express my gratitude for my staff, who worked day and night to serve the Fifth District: my legislative team who made sure that, with every vote I took, I did what was right for Oklahoma; my caseworkers, who were nothing short of lifesavers. Their work to help veterans and seniors, to help workers and small businesses and struggling families during this pandemic literally saved lives.

Each and every one of my staff pushed themselves, not for my personal end, not to make a political point, but to serve a district and people that they care about, to help people who need it, and to make Oklahomans heard in Congress. After all, that is why we are here.

Members and staff alike, we are here to serve, and public service means putting the best interest of others before

ourselves. Service means listening to and working with others, even when we disagree.

Service is not about winning at all costs. It is not about us versus them. It is about all of us working together. Service means leaving the world and our country a better place than we found it.

I still believe that we can do that, that we must do that, that we must leave this country better than we found it. And, no, it is not easy. It takes work, but it is worth it.

Mr. Speaker, during the 116th Congress, I held 54 townhalls, a record for Oklahoma's Fifth District. I met with thousands of Oklahomans: individuals, businesses, and organizations. It was worth it because connecting with constituents and making sure their voices are heard is a critical part of this job.

One of the most frequent questions I had heard time and again—one that broke my heart—was when people would ask me if it was even worth it to work across the aisle to try to get things done, whether it was even possible to find compromise and common ground in today's bitter political climate. My answer was the same every time: Absolutely.

We can and we must. We have done it before. Compromise takes hard work because it is always easier to walk away from the table, to point fingers, than it is to find a path forward. But finding common ground is worth it every time because, when we talk about service and working on behalf of our districts, to me, the best service we can provide here in Congress is putting politics aside and getting the work done for the people we represent. It is with hard work and commitment to talking to each other that we can do that, and we have proven it over and over again here in the 116th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that, in this Congress, that is what I have done. I have had 25 bipartisan bills signed into law in the midst of a divided government, those that make a real difference for our country and the people of Oklahoma's Fifth District, legislation like my Military Tenant's Bill of Rights and the Military HOMES Act, which work to address substandard and unsafe housing on our military bases; bills like the PPP Flexibility Act, which extends financial support to small businesses during this pandemic; and legislation like the USMCA trade deal and the CARES Act, which all needed bipartisan support to pass.

These things made a difference. They were accomplished because we worked together. We were able to get them signed into law. We have accomplished real things over the past 2 years in service to our country, but only by working together.

And there is so much more left to be done. We have work to do to deliver quality, affordable healthcare to all Americans. We have to strengthen our public education system. We have to